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The Fierce Green Fire

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



(Left) Ben Thomas worked with Dr. Ferguson this summer studying sediments and erosion. (Right) Paul Walkup had a "stinky" job with Savannah River Ecology Lab.



Volume 6, Issue 2

Kirkland Dickson (right) working at Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge.



Summer 2015: ENVS Majors & Minors

ENVS students have been busy this summer working on some exciting internships and adventures! Here is just a sample of the fun things they did!

This summer I worked on the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge in Westbrook, Connecticut. This included my living on Sheffield Island near Norwalk, Connecticut in the Long Island Sound. I gave interpretive tours of the trails, conducted bird and horseshoe crab surveys, and helped with invasive species management all around the island. It was an amazing opportunity to be able to work for the Federal Government and see how they work on the Refuge level. I also got my boating license, which was an amazingly fun time! ~ Kirkland Dickson

Over the summer I worked as an intern for the Smithsonian Institution's Office of Occupational Health and Safety in Washington, DC. I completed projects related to hazardous chemical management and occupational safety at the National Zoological Park, naphthalene monitoring in the Entomology Division of the National Museum of Natural History, and lead and asbestos sampling at various museums and research facilities. I also learned about fire safety, environmental management, occupational safety and industrial hygiene while using tools such as a handheld XRF analyzer, photometer and noise dosimeter. ~ Carol Morel

This summer, I worked at as a lab technician for University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Lab on the Department of Energy's Savannah River Nuclear Site near Aiken, SC. My work dealt with the molecular ecology of coyote scat for tracking purposes and amphibian methylmercury contamination. With the help of the researchers and graduate students I was working under, I

was quickly introduced to the vast world of ecology and daily life of a wildlife biologist. Although my work may have "stunk", I truly enjoyed my time there and the experience gained! ~ Paul Walkup

This summer, I worked throughout Costa Rica for a company called The Road Less Traveled. I lead two groups--middle school and high school aged--throughout the country backpacking and kayaking, volunteering and zip lining. The company's philosophy is rooted in environmentalism, focusing particularly on outdoor education and the effect of a lack of nature in American teenagers' lives. We volunteered primarily in the center valley, mixing cement and engaging in cultural exchange. The group travelled to Puerto Viejo (Caribbean coast) for surfing lessons and the Pacuare Nature Reserve to help with the restoration of turtle habitat. Andrew Fowler--a fellow environmental studies student--flew down to meet me following the program. We hiked around Arenal Volcano, enjoyed the natural hot springs, and finished our time on the Pacific Coast. ~ Garrett Heath

This summer I spent 10 weeks in El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico studying phosphorus cycling between two major classes of fungi, Basidiomycota and Ascomycota, after a simulated hurricane disturbance. It was an incredible and unique experience to do research with eleven other students that share a similar passion for the environment. When not working on my project, I spent my time hiking, helping other students with their projects, reading and learning how to surf. I am very thankful to have had this experience!

~ Mareli Sanchez

Carol Morel working at the Office of Occupational Health and Safety this summer.



Mareli Sanchez engaged in fieldwork during her research experience studying fungi in Puerto Rico.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

September 18th-19th
8:00am-3:00pm

Spartanburg Recycling Fall Community Clean Up: Bring household items to recycle, 8:00am-3:00pm at the Lighthouse Fish Camp - open to all Spartanburg County residents.

September 19th
9:00am-12:00pm

SPACE River Sweep: Volunteers are needed, 9:00am-12:00pm, to clean debris and trash from Lawson's Fork Creek at the popular Spartanburg Preserve. Sign up at cottonwoodriversweep2015.eventbrite.com to help them keep track of their numbers.

September 19th
8:00am-12:00pm

Spartanburg Water Lake Sweep 2015: 8:00am-noon, registration and breakfast 7:30-7:45am at Lake Bowen Park with buses leaving at 8:00am. Lunch and t-shirt provided. Teams of 5 people will be assigned to collect trash – remember to wear long pants, long sleeves, and closed toed shoes. Pre-register your team: <http://www.planetreg.com/E72471134178229>

September 19th
9:00am-2:00pm

Adopt-A-Stream Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Workshop: 9:00am-2:00pm at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, SC. Learn how to sample the biological aspects of a stream. This workshop will focus on collection techniques for either rocky or muddy bottom streams and macroinvertebrate identification. A quality assurance test is available at the end of the workshop for those who wish to test their skills. Note, more of these will soon be offered here in Spartanburg!

September 25th
11:45am-12:45pm

Dr. Savage's Special Topics Lunch: Welcome back to our ENVS students that studied abroad last year! Bring your lunch to Player's Corner, 11:45am (rain location: ENVS student lounge in BSA). Tell us about your study abroad experience and share with others who are considering going abroad in the future. All are welcome to join!

September 26th
10:00am-2:00pm

Rxcycle Spartanburg Prescription Take-Back: Donors may drop off their unused or expired medications at the following locations from 10:00am-2:00pm: Carolina Farm and Wildlife Supply, Landrum Ingles, North Grove Medical Park, and Spartanburg County Government Administration Building. Find additional information at www.rxcyclespartanburg.com.

Community Clean-Up Event
September 18th & 19th - 8 AM-3 PM
The Lighthouse Fish Camp
5680 S. Pine St. Spartanburg, 29307
Open to all Spartanburg County residents

Items Accepted Include:
Construction & Demolition Debris • Furniture • Yard Debris
Metal & Appliances • Electronics • Cooking Oil
Tires (limit 5 per household)

Sponsored by:



For more information, please call 864-949-1658

Visit our www.thinkinglikeariver.com website!

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Stanford University – School of Earth Sciences

Energy Resource Engineering (ERE), Environmental Earth System Science (EESS), Geological and Environmental Sciences (GES), and Geophysics (GP) are the four departments of study in Stanford University's graduate degree program.

The EESS department was established as part of the School of Earth Sciences in 2007 because of the Earth Sciences faculty's growing need to explore the Earth's environmental system thus creating the opportunity to form a department that could address integrated research topics and educate in global

environmental processes. The EESS degree is dedicated to "training a new generation of scientists that comprehend the multiple facets of environmental processes, who are able to think synthetically, evaluating change in our oceans, water, air and land processes as part of an integrated and connected system."

For more information on this and other graduate programs at Stanford University, visit <http://pangea.stanford.edu/>